

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

FY2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

<b>Legal Applicant Name:</b> Iowa Legal Aid	<b>Application ID:</b> 12AC133209
<b>Program Name:</b> Iowa Legal Aid AmeriCorps Project	

*For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.*

### Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- One of the elements of the applicant's 2010/11 strategic plan is increasing its utilization of volunteers in its program design and implementation. This is a major strength as it also aligns with the AmeriCorps' focus on volunteer recruitment and management systems. The AmeriCorps members would be highly effective in expanding the organization's capacity to both recruit and manage volunteers.
- The value added by the AmeriCorps members is multi-focus and therefore a major strength in providing both quality services and an excellent experience for the Members.
- The applicant provides a detailed account of its AmeriCorps program efforts and successes in the past five years with a rationale for continuing the interventions of the past and well-developed strategies for future enhancements. The applicant projects impressive outcomes to be achieved including a target of 80% of its audience members increasing their awareness of important legal rights and responsibilities.
- The integration of the AmeriCorps program into the strategic plan objectives shows strong commitment on the part of the applicant.
- Performance goals for this agency are fully described and built on past successes. The applicant seems to be striving to increase goals to reflect past achievement.
- While the applicant has made a case for the need for additional staff in the area of capacity building, a strong case has not been made for the unique elements that are offered by an AmeriCorps team.
- The applicant presented a strong proposal from the well-documented statement of needs through the unique roles AmeriCorps members would play in addressing the identified needs and the anticipated outcomes to follow. Substantiating data were recent and sources were relevant to the proposal. The roles and activities of the AmeriCorps members were outlined in detail and were directly applicable to addressing the targeted need. The emphasis on enhancing, and sharing, successful methods of volunteer generation and management provide additional value. Training and support of both Members and site supervisors were thoroughly delineated with benefits resulting in terms of retention and further civic engagement addressed